

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 259605

NODIS

FOL REPEAT MADRID 7618 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

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S E C R E T MADRID 7618

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA - MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY
FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA

REF : STATE 258841

1. CORTINA HAS JUST CALLED ME TO REQUEST THAT I PASS TO THE
SECRETARY THE FOLLOWING.

2. GOS HAS TRIED THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO REACH AGREEMENT
WITH MOROCCO. WHEN "GREEN MARCH" ANNOUNCED, GOS HAD ENDEAVORED
TO FIND WAYS TO REMOVE THIS POINT OF FRICTION. HOWEVER, MOROCCANS
INSISTED THAT SUBSTANCE OF SAHARA PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED ALONG
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LINES DESIRED BY MOROCCO AND MAINTAINED "GREEN MARCH" NOT

NEGOTIABLE.

3. MOROCANS HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH SINCE THEIR IDEA OF NEGOTIATION IS THAT OTHER SIDE MUST ACCEPT MOROCCAN DEMANDS OR NO AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. GOS HAS EXHAUSTED ITS POSSIBILITIES.

4. GOS HAS NOW RECEIVED INFORMATION WHICH IT CONSIDERS ACCURATE THAT AMONGST "GREEN MARCHERS" THERE ARE 25,000 MEN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY AND WHO HAVE THEIR WEAPONS CONCEALED. THIS GROUP CONSTITUTES A "TROJAN HORSE" AND GOS IS CONVINCED THAT ONCE ACROSS SAHARAN BORDER THESE SOLDIERS WILL THEN TAKE UP THEIR ARMS AND MILITARY INVASION WILL BE ON.

5. GOS HAS ALREADY INFORMED SECURITY COUNCIL THAT SPANISH ARMED FORCES IN SAHARA HAVE BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO RESIST ANY EFFORTS TO INVADE THE TERRITORY. HASSAN IS PLAYING WITH HIS THRONE BY USING SAHARA TO DISTRACT MOROCCAN PUBLIC OPINION FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, SPAIN DOES NOT INTEND TO PAY FOR HASSAN'S ERRORS.

6. CORTINA BELIEVES US CAN PLAY A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAKING

HASSAN UNDERSTAND THAT ROUTE HE IS FOLLOWING IS NOT THE ONE WHICH WILL GET HIM WHAT HE WANTS. IT WILL ONLY RADICALIZE PROBLEM AND PRODUCE A CONFLICT WE ALL WANT TO AVOID.

7. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY ONE SHORTLY TO BE ADOPTED, CAN PROVIDE COVER FOR DEMARCHE TO HASSAN. PERHAPS US COULD STRESS AGAIN THAT ARMAMENTS WHICH US HAS PROVIDED TO HASSAN ARE FOR FIGHT AGAINST COMMON ENEMY, BUT NOT FOR A FIGHT WHICH WILL INVOLVE WESTERN COUNTRIES. THUS, WHILE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY HAVE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS, EACH COUNTRY SHOULD BE ABLE TO INTERPRET TO HASSAN ITS VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES OF THESE RESOLUTIONS WHICH, QUITE CORRECTLY, HAVE NOT PUSHED HASSAN TO WALL BY CONDEMNING MOROCCO. HE WAS CONVINCED NEW RESOLUTION BY ITSELF WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON RABAT. CORTINA GAVE ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE APPROACHING FRENCH AND ITALIANS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN RABAT.

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8. CORTINA SAID GRAVE URGENCY OF PROBLEM LIES IN FACT THAT "GREEN MARCH" WITH ITS "TROJAN HORSE" IS DUE TO CROSS INTO SAHARA ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. HE APPEALED TO SECRETARY TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO AVOID THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES WHICH WILL BE INEVITABLE IF THE MARCH PROCEEDS. HE CONCLUDED BY REPEATING TWO POINTS: A) AS HE HAD PROMISED SECRETARY, GOS HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE, BUT HAD NOW EXHAUSTED ITS POSSIBILITIES; AND B) "GREEN MARCH" IS NOTHING MORE THAN A COVER TO PLACE THE

MOROCCAN ARMY IN THE SAHARA AND THUS TO INVADE THIS TERRITORY
MILITARILY.

9. I TOLD CORTINA THAT I WOULD PASS ABOVE IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT.
I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I HAD TRIED UNCUCCESSFULLY TO REACH HIM
YESTERDAY TO PASS ON CONTENTS OF REFTEL. CORTINA EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR THESE EFFORTS , BUT REPEATED HE PLACED GREAT
CONFIDENCE IN WHAT SECRETARY MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP
AT THIS MOST DANGEROUS MOMENT.
STABLER

UNQTE
ROBINSON

SECRET

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